

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Telecommunications Division  
Market Structure Branch**

**RESOLUTION T-17075  
March 15, 2007**

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**Resolution T-17075. Time Warner Telecom of California, LP (U-5358-C). Request for approval of a Traffic Termination Agreement between Time Warner Telecom of California, LP and North County Communications Corporation (U-5631-C), Pursuant to Section 252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.**

**By Advice Letter No. 347 Filed on January 16, 2007.**

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**Summary**

This Resolution approves Traffic Termination Agreement submitted under provisions of Resolution ALJ-181 and G.O. 96-A. This Agreement involves Time Warner Telecom of California, LP. (TWTC) and North County Communications Corporation (North County). The Agreement is effective today and will remain in effect until March 14, 2008. After March 14, 2008 the agreement will automatically renew unless either party gives notice of termination or requests renegotiation sixty days prior to the then-current term.

**Background**

The United States Congress passed and the President signed into law the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No.104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996)) (1996 Act). Pursuant to Section 251(a)(1) Each telecommunications carrier has the duty to connect directly or indirectly with the facilities and equipment of other telecommunications carriers. Any agreement adopted by negotiation must be submitted to the appropriate state commission for approval.

Section 252 of the 1996 Act sets forth our responsibility to review and approve agreements between carriers. On December 17, 1996, we adopted Resolution ALJ-167 that provides interim rules for the implementation of §252. On September 26, 1996, we

adopted Resolution ALJ-168 that modified those interim rules. On June 25, 1997, we approved ALJ-174, which modified ALJ-168, but did not change the rules for reviewing agreements achieved through voluntary negotiation. On November 18, 1999, we adopted ALJ-178, which added pick-and-choose provisions to the rules established in ALJ-174, but again did not change the rules for reviewing agreements achieved through voluntary negotiation. On October 5, 2000, we approved Resolution ALJ-181 to require any potential Competitive Local Carrier that intends to make use of our rules to have a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), or at least have filed an application for CPCN, prior to applying for approval of an agreement.

TWTC filed Advice Letter No. 347 on January 16, 2007. This Advice Letter requests Commission approval of a negotiated Traffic Termination Agreement between TWTC and North County under Section 251.

In ALJ-181 we noted that the 1996 Act requires the Commission to act to approve or reject agreements. We established an approach that uses the advice letter process as the preferred mechanism for consideration of negotiated agreements. Under Rule 4.3.3, if we fail to approve or reject an agreement within 90 days after the advice letter is filed, then the agreement will be deemed approved.

The Agreement pertaining to this Advice Letter sets the terms and charges for traffic termination between TWTC and North County. The Agreement provides for payment of undisputed charges on each other's correctly billed invoices for local and EAS traffic exchanged after the Effective Date based on each company's approved tariffed rates and terms for local and EAS traffic filed with the California Public Utilities Commission.

## **Notice/Protests**

TWTC states that copies of the Advice Letter and a copy of the agreement will be served on any requesting party. Notice of the Advice Letter was published in the Commission Daily Calendar. Pursuant to Rule 4.3.2 of ALJ-181, protests shall be limited to the standards for rejection provided in Rule 4.1.4.<sup>1</sup> No protests to this Advice Letter have been received.

## **Discussion**

In November 1993, this Commission adopted a report entitled "Enhancing California's Competitive Strength: A Strategy for Telecommunications Infrastructure" (Infrastructure Report). In that report, the Commission stated its intention to open all telecommunications markets to competition by January 1, 1997. Subsequently, the California Legislature adopted Assembly Bill 3606 (Ch. 1260, Stats. 1994), similarly

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<sup>1</sup> See below for conditions of Rule 4.1.4.

expressing legislative intent to open telecommunications markets to competition by January 1, 1997. In the Infrastructure Report, the Commission states that "...in order to foster a fully competitive local telephone market, the Commission must work with federal officials to provide consumers equal access to alternative providers of service." The 1996 Act provides us with a framework for undertaking such state-federal cooperation.

Section 252(e)(2) limits the state commission's grounds for rejection of voluntary agreements. Section 51.3 of the First Report and Order also concludes that the state commission can approve an agreement adopted by negotiation even if the terms of the agreement do not comply with the requirements of Part 51--Interconnection.

Based on Section 252 of the 1996 Act, we instituted Rule 4.3 in Resolution ALJ-181 for approval of agreements reached by negotiation. Rule 4.3.1 provides rules for the content of requests for approval. Consistent with Rule 4.3.1, this request meets the following conditions:

1. TWTC filed an Advice Letter as provided in General Order 96-A and stated that the Traffic Termination Agreement is an agreement being filed for approval under Section 252 of the 1996 Act.
2. The request contains a copy of the Agreement that, by its content, demonstrates that it meets the standards in Rule 2.18.

Rule 4.3.3 of ALJ-181 states that the Commission shall reject or approve the agreement based on the standards in Rule 4.1.4. Rule 4.1.4 states that the Commission shall reject an agreement (or portion thereof) if it finds that:

- A. the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement; or
- B. the implementation of such agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity; or
- C. the agreement violates other requirements of the Commission, including, but not limited to, quality of service standards adopted by the Commission.

We make no determination as to whether the rates in this Agreement meet the pricing standards of Section 252(d) of the 1996 Act. Our consideration of this Agreement is limited to the three issues in Rule 4.1.4 of ALJ-181.

The Agreement is consistent with the goal of avoiding discrimination against other telecommunications carriers. We see nothing in the terms of the proposed Agreement

that would tend to restrict the access of a third-party carrier to the resources and services of TWTC.

Section 252(i) of the 1996 Act ensures that the provisions of this Agreement will be made available to all other similarly situated competitors. Specifically, the section states:

“A local exchange carrier shall make available any interconnection, service, or network element provided under an agreement approved under this section to which it is a party to any other requesting telecommunications carrier upon the same terms and conditions as those provided in the agreement.”

We previously concluded that competition in local exchange and exchange access markets is desirable. We find no provisions in this Agreement, which undermine this goal or are inconsistent with any other identified public interests. Hence, we conclude that the Agreement is consistent with the public interest.

We also recognize that no party protested the Advice Letter alleging that it was discriminatory, inconsistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity or in violation of Commission requirements.

Several who commented on previous agreements sought assurance that the Commission's treatment of those agreements would not impair their rights and opportunities in other proceedings.<sup>2</sup> We wish to reiterate such assurances as clearly as possible. This Resolution stands solely for the proposition that North County and TWTC may proceed to interconnect under the terms set forward in this Agreement. We do not adopt any findings in this Resolution that should be carried forth to influence the determination of issues to be resolved elsewhere.

If the parties to this Agreement enter into any subsequent Agreements affecting traffic termination, those Agreements must also be submitted to the Commission for approval. In addition, the approval of this Agreement is not intended to affect otherwise applicable deadlines. This Agreement and its approval have no binding effect on any other carrier. Nor do we intend to use this Resolution as a vehicle for setting future Commission policy. As a result of being approved, this Agreement does not become a standard against which any or all other agreements will be measured.

With these clarifications in mind, we will approve the proposed Agreement. In order to facilitate rapid introduction of competitive services, we will make this order effective immediately.

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<sup>2</sup>A.96-07-035 and A.96-07-045.

This is an uncontested matter in which the resolution grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 311(g)(2) and Rule 14.6(c)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

## **Findings**

1. Time Warner Telecom of California, LP's request for approval of a Traffic Termination Agreement between Time Warner Telecom of California, LP and North County Communications Corporation, pursuant to the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 meets the content requirements of Rule 4.3.1 of ALJ-181.
2. Time Warner Telecom of California LP has a valid CPCN (U-5358-C) to provide competitive local exchange service in the State of California.
3. North County Communications Corporation has a valid CPCN (U-5631-C) to provide competitive local exchange service in the State of California.
4. The Agreement requested in Time Warner Telecom of California, LP's Advice Letter No. 347 is consistent with the goal of avoiding discrimination against other telecommunications carriers.
5. We conclude that the Agreement is consistent with the public interest.
6. We conclude that the Agreement does not present terms that violate quality of service standards adopted by the Commission, as per Rule 4.1.4 of ALJ-181.

## **THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:**

1. Pursuant to the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, we approve the Traffic Termination Agreement between Time Warner Telecom of California, LP. (U-5358-C) and North County Communications Corporation (U-5631-C), which was requested in Advice Letter No. 347.
2. This Resolution is limited to approval of the above-mentioned Traffic Termination Agreement and does not bind other parties or serve to alter Commission policy in any of the areas discussed in the Agreement or elsewhere.
3. Time Warner Telecom of California, LP's Advice Letter No. 347, which requests approval of an Traffic Termination Agreement between Time Warner Telecom of California, LP. and North County Communications Corporation (U-5631-C) shall be marked to show that it was approved by Resolution T-17075.

This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that the Public Utilities Commission adopted this Resolution at its regular meeting on March 15, 2007. The following Commissioners approved it:

/s/ STEVE LARSON

STEVE LARSON  
Executive Director

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY  
President  
DIAN M. GRUENEICH  
JOHN A. BOHN  
RACHELLE B. CHONG  
TIMOTHY A. SIMON  
Commissioners